

Morongo Basin Municipal Advisory Council
Minutes – March 14, 2016
Joshua Tree Community Center, 6171 Sunburst Ave., Joshua Tree, CA 92252

- A. Call to Order
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Members Present: Myers, Ziegert, Lundquist, Flanagan, Lutringer, Swarat, Tuttle, Koenig. Member Absent: Sitz
- D. Adoption of Agenda
- E. The minutes of the February 8, 2016 meeting were adopted as presented.
- F. PUBLIC COMMENTS
T. O'Key said JTNP is creating a document to apply for Dark Skies status. He asked the MAC for a letter of support. A. Fleck mentioned the two recent fires in WV saying she felt the response and personnel were inadequate. Mr. Stiller, MV, told the MAC a dog hoarder had been given a kennel permit. He feels the County does not have enough information before issuing permits.
- G. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS
Capt. Joling of the Sheriff's department said his department handled 1577 calls in February; 80 reports were written; 45% were cleared by arrest; 22 citations were issued and there were 11 burglaries. He also said there are neighborhood watch meetings scheduled. Simon Miller, CHP PIO said April is Distracted Drivers Month. He asked all to be mindful and pull over when seeing flashing red lights. County Fire reported that they handled 502 calls in February. The season for wildfires is fast approaching so everyone please be mindful of fires. Regarding the recent fires in WV, it was noted that fire personnel responded within 2 minutes but by the time they arrived on scene, the residences were fully involved. CAL Fire noted they cover an area from Riverside to JT to the LA county line. There will be extra staff for the upcoming fire season.
- H. David Smith, Superintendent, presented an update on JTNP. He noted there are 8% more visitors this year than last year at this time. They are looking to build another entrance and are trying to divert traffic to the 29 Palms entrance in an effort to alleviate the traffic problem on Park Blvd.
- I. Resolution MB-MAC014 requesting denial of application by Nextera to construct a commercial solar energy generation facility at the site of the down defunct JT airport was unanimously adopted by the MAC.
- J. Resolution MB-MAC015 opposing the proposed Alta Mira housing project was unanimously adopted by the MAC.
- K. Community Reports: Lutringer reminded everyone of the rodeo in Landers on May 27-28. Ziegert said YMIA has new officers. Koenig said their roads are still a problem. Tuttle said their roads were still atrocious with some only partially graded; there will be a food drive by the Rotarians at Stater's markets in the basin on 4-2. Swarat said there would be an upcoming presentation to the MV community so they would understand the tax increase.
- L. Adjournment: 8:10 p.m.

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Adopted as presented: April 11, 2016